IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 16 and ending at page 17, line 24, as follows:

--Supposing that $b_i = 0$ in the next pass of step 33, then since the write area indicator is now set ($wa = 1$), operation will proceed from step 34 to step [[41]] <u>47</u>. A new pit is then written at the current bit position as in step 23 of Figure 2. After this, however, the controller checks in step 42 whether $ez > 2$. This is to determine whether the current exclusion zone extends beyond the next bit position. If so, in step 43 the value of ez is reduced by one (to account for the current bit position), and operation proceeds to step 39. Returning to step 42, if ez Ÿ 2 here then ez is set to 1 in step 44 since a new pit has just been written at the current position so a read-exclusion always applies at the next bit position due to the r-constraint.--

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants hereby propose to amend the drawings in the above-identified application as indicated in red on the copy submitted herewith.

More specifically, it is proposed to amend Figs. 5 by changing the reference numeral "41" to --47--.